

# TELEGRAM

OUTGOING

Foreign Service of the  
United States of America

Vol 23-8

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Charge:

Classification

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Date: Oct. 156, 1968

ACTION: Amembassy BRASILIA PRIORITY  
Amembassy RIO de JANEIRO "

Sao Paulo 2526

Declassified  
Authority: 43265 By:  
Brewer Thompson  
Date: 05-06-2015

SUBJECT: Action to Apprehend Murderers of Captain Chandler

1. It appears to us quite probable that the Marighella group killed Chandler and, if not put out of action, will continue to be a threat to American installations and a mortal threat to American personnel.

EO50x1

There are numerous reports in-

dicating this group advocates terrorist acts. One report indicated a Cuban instructor was being brought in to train members of this group in guerrilla-type action. This group appears the most likely one in São Paulo to be involved in any coordinated Latin American-wide efforts, such as any continent-wide terrorist program in memory Guevara. (One report indicated Marighella had boasted that his group was responsible for bombing the Consulate General last March.)

~~PO:R~~ PO:R FC Corrigan:djg

WULWIGHT

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2.

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So far the Brazilian agencies have been unable or unwilling to apprehend the leaders or other members group. The multiplicity of these agencies tends to make their efforts widely dispersed and ineffective notwithstanding reports all personnel have been instructed to give priority to Chandler case. The Federal Police here have very little capability; the military services are compartmentalized and not prepared for police work; the state police are disorganized and rent by internal dissension. As a sad example of difficulty of coordination, Chandler's widow was subjected to two long police interrogations Sunday because, as we were told, DOPS was legally unable to accept for its purposes the results of earlier SNI questioning. We also are very unimpressed with the quality of police personnel who seem to have principal responsibility in the case.

3. We unfortunately conclude, therefore, that in present circumstances chances of apprehending Chandler's killers appear slight and, equally disturbing, it is to be feared further attempts and harrassments

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against US personnel and places will take place. Only yesterday and today we have reports of threats to, and actual breaking into the homes of Americans working for US firms in São Paulo. (More on this later.) Remedy could ensue only from a new unusual and bold effort on the part of the Brazilians. Yesterday I told the local Chief of SNI, Colonel Enio, we were very interested in the apprehension of the Chandler murderers and I declared it seemed to us the arrest of Marighella and his cohorts (he is already of course a fugitive from justice but, according to some reports, is frequently seen around town) should have high priority attention. As precaution and not to cause alarm, he urged us to go around armed and to keep heavy weapons in our houses as all top Brazilian military do. I am trying today to see State Secretary of Security Hely Lopes Meirelles to impress on him our interest in these security problems.

4. In view of the desirability for a greater and more efficacious effort and as Chandler's murder provides a justifiable cause for pressure, we venture to urge Embassy at the highest feasible level, EO50x1

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to try to persuade the

GOB to have Marighella and crowd put out of action. To coin a phrase, How about offering reward?

the time is ripe and the hour late. /

GP-3

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CORRIGAN *RJC*  
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